

from his participation in the military, to his work on behalf of veterans, to his contributions in the community. The Air Force has a very special tradition in Idaho, and Mel has long been part of that tradition. Enlisting in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict, Mel served 4 years on active duty and 8 years in the Air Force Reserves as a meteorologist. He has also been a stalwart veteran advocate. His active membership and leadership in the American Legion led him to be selected to be National Vice Commander in 1982-83. In 1983, Mel began his service as State Adjutant for the Legion, and he has served in that capacity until this September.

Mel's service to our country makes it clear that he has never been afraid of challenges, hardships or hard work. Idaho is privileged to have Mel and his family as residents. I am honored to stand before the Senate today and tell my colleagues about Mel; however, I do this with mixed emotions. Mel Napier recently stepped down as State Adjutant for the American Legion, a position he held for 16 years. It is a special individual indeed who commits to that kind of service on behalf of all the men and women in uniform who have proudly served our great nation.

In sum, I would like to thank Mel for his tremendous contribution to our country, and most of all, to America's veterans. I know that Mel will not be leaving the American Legion, or ending his service to veterans because he will no longer serve as State Adjutant, but I do think that this is a very appropriate time to give Mel our thanks and show our gratitude for his service.

Mr. Napier, thank you, congratulations, and Godspeed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KATHRYN "KAYCI" COOK

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and steward of our National Park System, Kathryn "Kayci" Cook, Superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and Hampton National Historic Site. Kayci has recently been selected as Assistant Superintendent of Glen Canyon National Park in Utah and I, and many others in the State of Maryland, are sorry to see her go.

Throughout her 18-year career with the National Park Service, Kayci Cook has distinguished herself for her leadership, commitment and dedication to managing and protecting our Nation's most precious natural and cultural resources. Beginning as a seasonal park ranger at Wupatki and Canyon de Chelly National Monuments in northern Arizona, she quickly advanced through the ranks to positions as park ranger at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in Texas, supervisory ranger at California's Death Valley National Monument, and Chief of Resource Education for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore in Wisconsin.

In 1994, her contributions and accomplishments in these positions earned Kayci the prestigious Benvenuto Congressional Fellowship.

I came to know Kayci three years ago, soon after she was appointed to lead Fort McHenry and Hampton and have had the privilege of working closely with her on a number of matters of mutual concern affecting these units of the National Park System. I can personally attest to the exceptional talent, ingenuity, and energy which she brought to this position. Under her leadership the fort walls and many historic structures at Fort McHenry have been restored, plans have been advanced to develop a new visitors center to accommodate the increasing number of visitors to the Fort, many preservation projects have been completed at Hampton and a new General Management Plan for this historic site is being completed.

Kayci Cook's hard work and dedication to the stewardship Fort McHenry and Hampton have earned her the respect and admiration of everyone with whom she has worked. She leaves behind two units of the National Park System that have been protected and improved through her efforts and the visitors to these sites will benefit from her labors for years to come. In my judgement, her extraordinary commitment and leadership should serve as a standard for those who will follow her. I greatly value the assistance Kayci provided to me and my staff and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.●

#### TRIBUTE TO YOUNG MEN OF IDAHO

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to two groups of exceptional young men from my State of Idaho.

In August, the South Central Boise Little League team from Boise, ID, became the first little league team from Idaho ever to compete in the Little League World Series. Under the leadership of Stan McGrady, this team of 11- and 12-year-olds completed an underdog run to win the Western Regional Pennant and advance to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. They won one game and lost two in the World Series, but, more importantly, showed an impressive amount of maturity and sportsmanship and represented our state in an exemplary manner.

Furthermore, the Madison Cats of Rexburg, ID, ended a successful season by competing in the Babe Ruth League World Series in Clifton Park, NY. This team of 14-year-olds, coached by Randy Sutton, went undefeated in both the state and regional tournaments to earn the right to represent the Pacific Northwest in the Babe Ruth World Series.

Along with the entire State of Idaho, I am very proud of these young men. Their accomplishments show a level of

dedication and teamwork that will benefit them for many years to come. They were exceptional ambassadors for Idaho. I congratulate them, their parents, and their communities on these unprecedented accomplishments.●

#### WELFARE REFORM AND THE COLLEGE OPTION: A NATIONAL CONFERENCE

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, this weekend, the McAuley Institute, Wider Opportunities for Women, the Center for Women Policy Studies, and the Howard Samuels State Management and Policy Center of CUNY hosted a national conference on the important relationship between welfare reform and higher education. On Friday night, they held an opening night reception and awards ceremony. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, but I ask to have printed in the RECORD a letter that was read on my behalf as part of the ceremony.

The letter follows.

SEPTEMBER 24, 1999.

TO ALL IN ATTENDANCE: First, I would like to begin by apologizing for the fact that I can't be here in person to accept this award. Certainly, I always like to attend any dinner that someone has gone to the trouble of holding in my honor, but even more so I would love to attend your conference focusing on the important relationship between education and economic self-sufficiency.

Second, I would like to thank all of the sponsors of this conference—the McAuley Institute, Wider Opportunities for Women, the Center for Women's Policy Studies, and the Howard Samuels State Management and Policy Center of CUNY—for presenting me with this award. I have worked with these groups in the past on important legislative efforts, and deeply respect the work that each of these organizations has done to protect and advance the well-being of the most needy among us.

Having done that, though, I would also like to take this time to talk a little bit about poverty and need.

We live in a nation of riches. Since 1969, the era when we launched our War on Poverty, we have seen the nation's total wealth per person grow by 62 percent, and as a nation, we consumed 73 percent more material goods and services per person in 1997 than we did 1969. Yet during that same time, the number of poor children in America grew by 46 percent, or more than 4 million children. About one-half of this growth represented the growing number of poor children in families headed by someone who worked.

1998 was a year of economic prosperity for many Americans. Many of us have benefitted greatly from a strong economy: unemployment is at its lowest level since 1969, and for the second year in a row wages have gone up, cutting across the traditional barriers of race, ethnicity and education.

Unfortunately, though, these gains have barely been felt by those left behind by the growing economic inequality we see in this country. New figures on family income show that the gap between low- and moderate-income families and rich families is at an all-time high. During the 1990s, we have seen a disturbing trend in income gains—the rich in America are benefitting in ways that the poor are not: While the richest 20 percent of households gained about \$15,000 dollars in annual income between 1990 and 1997, the poorest 20 percent of families gained only about